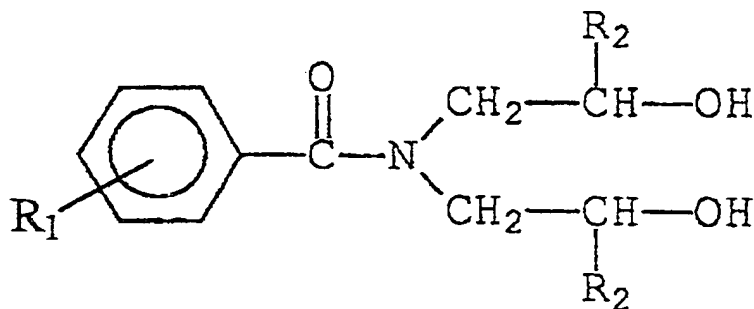


IN THE CLAIMS

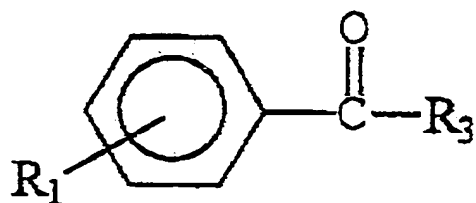
1-14. (cancelled)

15. A method of utilizing a  $\beta$ -hydroxyalkylamide having the general formula:



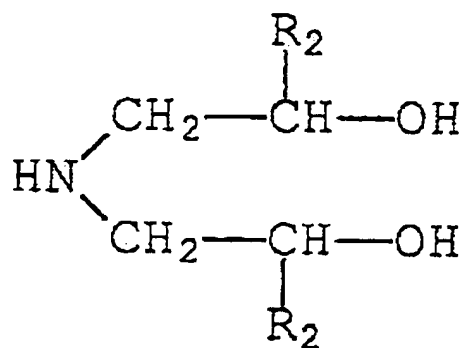
wherein  $R_1$  is H or a linear or branched  $C_1$  to  $C_{10}$  alkyl and  $R_2$  is a linear or branched  $C_1$  to  $C_5$  alkyl to cross-link the polymer.

16. The method according to claim 15 wherein the  $\beta$ -hydroxyalkylamide is made from a process comprising reacting a carboxylic acid derivative having the general Formula II:



**II**

where  $R_3$  is halogen or  $OR_4$ , whereby  $R_4$  stands for a linear  $C_1$  to  $C_5$  alkyl, with an alkanol amine having the general Formula III:



**III**

and where  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  are defined as indicated above.

17. The method according to claim 15, comprising mixing the  $\beta$ -hydroxyalkylamide with additional  $\beta$ -hydroxyalkylamides and/or epoxies as cross-linkers.